

From: [Kader, Hanady](#)
To: [Kawabata, Sylvia](#); [Opalski, Dan](#); [Jennings, Marie](#)
Cc: [Perkins, Brandon](#)
Subject: RE: MEDIA INQUIRY: KUAC Radio Fairbanks, sulfolane groundwater contamination in North Pole
Date: Tuesday, June 25, 2013 9:19:00 AM

Thanks, Sylvia. Marie, Dan, could we get responses from water by COB? Thanks.

From: Kawabata, Sylvia
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2013 1:41 PM
To: Opalski, Dan; Jennings, Marie; Kader, Hanady
Cc: Perkins, Brandon
Subject: FW: MEDIA INQUIRY: KUAC Radio Fairbanks, sulfolane groundwater contamination in North Pole

Hanady – Questions #5 and #6 are for the Drinking water program (Opalski and Jennings).

Here are my answers to Q#1-#4

- In May 2010, EPA was petitioned by Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT) to conduct a PA at Flint Hills Refinery.(this is the refinery in North Pole where the sulfolane has leaked into the groundwater).
- EPA completed the PA in June 2012. EPA looking at the various options for EPA's involvement at this site. EPA still needs need to discuss these options with ADEC.
- ADEC in February 2013 came to Seattle and presented to EPA's superfund program the current work and planned work at the site. ADEC occasionally provides EPA updates.
- ADEC asked EPA for technical assistance. EPA's Office of Research and Development (Ada, OK lab) is assisting ADEC on better understanding the degradation of sulfolane in the subsurface aquifer.

See attached briefing paper (1-30-13) prepared for the RA for his trip to the AK Forum on the Environment in Feb. 2013, where he had a meeting with ACAT and Russ Maddox, the citizen who is concerned with the drinking water for the local citizens. Mr. Maddox recently had a conf call with Lisa Garcia (Special Assistant on EJ to the Adm.) raising the drinking water issue as an EJ concern. Mr. Maddox recently held a community meeting. ADEC is having a community meeting on June 25th.

- Sylvia, x 1078

From: Cohen, Lori
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2013 10:28 AM
To: Kader, Hanady; R10 Press Team; Albright, Rick; Soderlund, Dianne; Kawabata, Sylvia
Subject: RE: MEDIA INQUIRY: KUAC Radio Fairbanks, sulfolane groundwater contamination in North Pole

Sylvia is the POC on this. Thank you.

From: Kader, Hanady
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2013 10:13 AM
To: R10 Press Team; Cohen, Lori; Albright, Rick; Soderlund, Dianne
Subject: MEDIA INQUIRY: KUAC Radio Fairbanks, sulfolane groundwater contamination in North Pole

Who took the call/e-mail: Hanady Kader

Date and Time: 6/21

Deadline: 12pm Tuesday

Media Outlet: KUAC Radio, Fairbanks

Reporter (include phone number and/or e-mail): Tim Ellis

Topic: Sulfolane contamination in North Pole groundwater

Wants to know about the EPA's role, if any, in the monitoring and cleanup of the sulfolane contamination problem.

Email: I'm told that one or more local officials in the Fairbanks-North Pole area have asked the EPA to play a greater role in the effort. One person tells me that a local official has asked the EPA to take over the effort altogether from the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

1. What's the EPA's role in this issue so far? Can you characterize that in general terms such as oversight, or consulting with DEC, or that sort of general description? Or does it have any role, other than having some sort of being informed by the state DEC of the problem and kept updated -- that sort of thing?
2. Has EPA been contacted recently by local officials who've asked EPA to play a greater role, or even to take over the monitoring/cleanup?
3. Whether or not it's true that local officials have asked the EPA to expand its role in the monitoring/cleanup (I hope to confirm that today) -- is EPA going to expand its role in the monitoring/cleanup? Is that already going to happen anyway?
4. Has EPA made a decision on assuming jurisdiction over the sulfolane-remediation efforts in the North Pole, Alaska area? If not, why not? Does EPA believe the ADEC is doing an adequate job overseeing remediation?
5. Is EPA considering a request by Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor Luke Hopkins to provide funding for extending the area's municipal water system into affected areas in and around North Pole, to provide an alternative source of drinking water for residents of that area?
6. If so, what's the progress of that request? When will a decision be made.

Action/Outcome: Including Rick and Lori to figure out who might know more from ECL.

Status: (Open/Closed/Pending): Pending

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